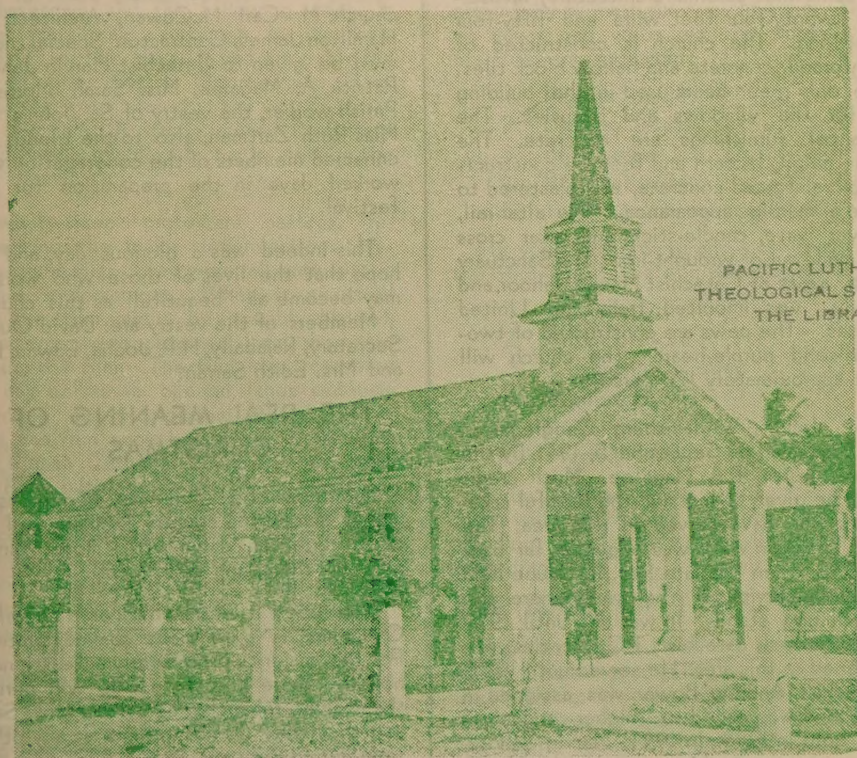


★ THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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November—December 1954



PACIFIC LUTHERAN
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NEW CHURCH DEDICATED.

After waiting almost ten years, members of St. John's Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, Corentyne, realised their hopes and their dreams fulfillment in the dedication of their new Church building. Already, as early as 1945, money had been received for the building of a church at Williamsburg. It was not until 1953 that permission was received from the Manager, Mr. J. I. King of Pln. Albion, to build the

church. We express our appreciation to Mr. King and the management for this permission granted, and for all the assistance and advice given. Sunday, December 5, 1954, will long be remembered by members and friends of St. John's Church. More than seven hundred persons attended the services on that Sunday. The dedication service was performed by the Rev. Aubrey R. Bowen, President, of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Paul G. Hansen, Pastor of the Georgetown Parish, theme—"The Effective Church." Dr. G. G. Parker, Treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, preached in the afternoon. The Church was overcrowded at both services.

St. John's Church is a concrete structure of somewhat colonial architecture, measuring twenty-four feet wide and fifty-four feet long. The church is constructed of reinforced concrete and hollow block tiles. The only green-heart used in the building is for the windows and jalousies. The Chancel furnishings are concrete. The altar, pulpit, lectern and font are constructed of reinforced concrete, and plastered to give a marble appearance. The altar-rail, flower vase, candle-sticks and altar cross are made out of wrought-iron. The Sanctuary lamp, a gift of Catechist Marvin Jahoor and family, was imported from the United States. The pews are constructed of two-inch solid purple-heart. The church will seat approximately 120 persons.

St. John's, Williamsburg Congregation was organized on September 5, 1941, by the former pastor, P.A. Magalee. Much credit must be given to him and the faithful catechists who have served in this area. The first Lutheran work was begun as far back as 1932, when the late Rev. R. Daube held the first service in the yard where the church now stands. It was not until 1939 that the first catechist, T.C. Menzies, was assigned to this area. He served until 1947. Catechist Andrew Bowen was assigned in 1947 and was called to "higher service" in the Lord in 1948. In 1949, Marvin Jahoor, the present catechist, was appointed. In 1952 Mrs. Sarah Morrison began to work as Parish-worker.

God has richly and magnificently blessed this work. Today there are approximately 400 baptized members, and 180 confirmed members. The congregation has always met its self-support and foreign mission pledges.

The symbol of the Lamb of God, with the banner waving, is on the front of the altar. This symbolizes the triumphant Lamb that overcometh all difficulties. The Lamp on the pulpit symbolizes the Gospel of Christ, the Light of the world. The eagle on the lectern is the symbol of St. John—

his Gospel soars heavenward. The dove on the font is the symbol of the Holy Ghost and baptismal regeneration.

Special thanks to the Board of Foreign Missions who made available the funds for this Church; Mr. J. I. King, Manager, and the Directors of Bookers Sugar Estate; the late Rev. W. J. E. Scott, who had much to do with the preliminary plans of this church; Mr. Carl McCowan, Architect; Mr. Hamilton James, Contractor. Special thanks must be given to Catechist Marvin Jahoor, Patrick A. Magalee, Mrs. Sarah Morrison, Parish-worker, the vestry of St. John's, and Miss Ruth Zartman; also to the friends and unnamed members of the congregation who worked days in the preparation for this festival.

This indeed was a glorious day, and we hope that the lives of those who worship may become as "beautiful" as this church.

Members of the vestry are: David Oudit, Secretary, Rajabally, H.P. Jodha, Edward Fry, and Mrs. Edith Saran.

THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Soon it will be Christmas. In millions of homes across the country families will sit down together, eat a little more than is good for them, and make merry.

What does it all mean? For a minority, Christmas is a religious commemoration. For the majority it is merely a feast and a holiday. There are those who will permit themselves debaucheries at this Holy Season that they do not permit at any other time during the year.

But this much is true. On a specific day there was born in the manger of a poor inn in Judea, a child called Jesus. He was not a statesman, a prince or a warrior. He wrote no books, raised no artistic monument. He was regarded by educated contemporaries as a person of no consequence. But to those who knew Christ best during His life and particularly after His agonizing death, He was the Son of God. That also was His claim. And Jesus succeeded, in the teeth of every opposition, ridicule and persecution, in communicating this truth to others.

The whole meaning of Christmas, the miracle of Christ's birth-and-death and resurrection - is that God became man in

order that we might be saved from our sins. He left us two commandments: that we should love God with our whole being and our neighbor as ourself. Is there room in your heart for Him?

"MARTIN LUTHER" FILM

The film "Martin Luther," was shown in British Guiana on Reformation week-end in Georgetown, and the following week in New Amsterdam. Although it was only booked for five days, it had an extended run of nine days in Georgetown. Many obstacles were placed in the way of showing this film. A strong united Protestant stand was a deciding factor in getting the film passed.

Twenty-three protestant pastors, representing the major denominations, pre-viewed the film. They were all enthusiastic in their endorsement. When it appeared that the film might be possibly banned, statements were obtained from them endorsing the film. The film was censored the day before it opened, thus seriously affecting our promotional efforts. However, the film snow-balled into a real hit. The Roman Catholic Church did not ban the film, but placed it in a special classification, stating that it contained teachings unacceptable to the Roman Catholic Church. The newspapers were very co-operative in giving publicity to the film. Over nineteen thousand hand-bills were distributed in Georgetown through the schools and by the Luther Leaguers. The audience reaction was good. In several of Luther's climatic scenes, they burst into spontaneous cheering. The film "Martin Luther", will long be remembered in British Guiana, and efforts will be made to secure it for showing in the country districts.

VOLLEY BALL CHAMPIONS

In a recent play-off with the Bookers' Sports Club, the Georgetown Lutheran team emerged victorious. It was a gruelling five-game match that took two and a half hours to play. The game was played under the lights of Bookers Sports Club. The Lutheran team was undefeated in the fourteen-team league competition. By winning the Volley Ball Championship of Georgetown, the team received the John Carter Trophy Cup. Team members are: Ivan Meyers, Roland Munro, I. Mason,

I. Davis, Pastor P.G. Hansen, and Pastor E.G. Vosseler.

BIBLE READING HINTS

Here are some hints for a systematic study of the Bible. Select a book, such as Acts, for a period of intensive study. Read a chapter each day. Don't just skim the chapter, but read it over carefully and prayerfully at least six or eight times. Then sit down and write out the answers to the following questions.

1. Principal subject
2. Leading lesson
3. Best verse
4. Principal persons
5. Teachings concerning Christ

For your daily growth answer and act upon the following. Is there in this chapter any—

1. Example to follow
2. Error to avoid
3. Command to obey
4. Promise to claim
5. Prayer to echo
6. Memory verse.

If you use this method, praying that God's Spirit will enlighten you and give you understanding, your Bible study will be rich and rewarding.

THE MARK OF THE CHRISTIAN

The distinguished mark of a great christian is a certain prodigality and extravagance in self-giving. He does not know where to draw the line. He spends himself on people. He has no thought of self-protection. He gives himself—his time, his service, his money—in lavish, selfless devotion.

During the war a soldier went out to no-man's land, where shells were falling, to rescue his wounded friend. His superior officer gave him permission to go but added "It isn't worth it. Your friend must be dead, and if you go out there, you will be wounded or killed yourself." But the soldier went, hoisted his friend on his shoulder, and brought him back from the lines. He was terribly wounded himself and his friend appeared to be dead. "I told you

it wasn't worth it," said the officer. "Your friend is dead and you are badly wounded." "But it was worth it, sir," the soldier protested. "Worth it? How could it be worth it?" the officer demanded. "It was worth it, sir," replied the soldier, "because when I got to him he was alive, and he said, 'Jim, I knew you'd come.'"

How does one explain giving of such selfless, spontaneous, whole-hearted character? I think I know the explanation. There is a challenge inseparably associated with privilege. Once a man begins to appreciate how much he has received in friendship, in rights of citizenship, in freedom of conscience, in liberty of worship, in what our fathers called the "Means of Grace," the church, the Word of God, and the Sacraments, he knows he is under obligation to make a sacrificial return. At the center of the Christian faith is the Cross of Christ.

AROUND THE COLONY

THE UPPER BERBICE RIVER PARISH

PASTOR H. C. MAGALEE

MT. OLIVET, Kwakwani Lay-reader N. Roup and Choir-director and Organist, Mr. Terrence Abrams are working together and the result of their efforts are praise worthy. In just over three months they have cleared \$199.00 of the indebtedness on the new organ.

The school staff joined these men for the harvest effort and, here again, Harvest Day turned out to be a glorious event. The church was attractively decorated and there were many gifts. The Service of Holy Communion was held at 11.00 a.m., the Children's Service at 3.00 p.m., and in the evening the staff and pupils of the school presented the pageant, "The Gift." The following participated: Mr. Thomas Fredericks, Mervyn Luckhoo, Morris Jacobs, Elma Pierre, Wavney Harper, and Alfred Roberts. These young people did a splendid job of acting and received the hearty congratulations of Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Fraser who moved and seconded the vote of thanks.

In conjunction with this program, Mrs. N. J. Hurley, wife of the resident manager,

presented about 30 prizes to the winners of the last athletic contests, and also presented certificates of award to twelve pupils from the Department of Education and from the "Society for the Promotion of Refinement among School Children."

GRACE, Develde We had the privilege of having Miss Ruth Zartman and Miss Marianne Fague for our Festival of Harvest. Miss Zartman gave the message in the morning. Miss Fague spoke in the afternoon during the Children's Programme. This programme was climaxed by a procession of children bearing fruits, eggs, and vegetables, which were placed upon the chancel. These gifts were later sent to the Children's Ward of the New Amsterdam hospital and a very appreciative letter was received from the resident surgeon.

ST. PAUL, Maria Henrietta As part of the Harvest Programme, Mrs. Anitha Hartmann sponsored a sacred concert which rounded the praise and glory of God. There were five baptisms, and Colvin Vandenburg, Edna Duncan and Jose De-Abreu were confirmed.

Death has robbed the community of one of its old and venerable ladies—Mrs. Roza Sauers. Her passing ends a life of pain and struggle that was unique—a Christian faith that was incomparable. For more than 25 years she has been a "shut-in" afflicted with a terrible malady on both legs and feet. In all these years there was no respite, but with fortitude and Christian strength, she bore it patiently. To visit this soul was a "mountain-top" experience. The visitor, instead of hearing complaints, heard her saintly lips praise the mercy of the living God. A few months ago a new ointment (the gift of a friend in the U.S.A.) was applied to her feet with wonderful results. In due time every lesion was healed, and for the first time in over 25 years Roza Sauers was well! But this, unfortunately, was of a temporary nature. One month later she was stricken with fever, and in nine days passed on to the God in whom she will continue to find the joy and comfort and peace that passes our understanding.

ATONEMENT, Ebiní This congregation continues to worship in the school building. In spite of this, the members were able to transform its usual appearance into a little cathedral of palms, flowers, and ferns for their harvest-service. In the afternoon the children did splendidly in the presenta-

tion of an appropriate programme. The ladies also presented a pageant. This was their first attempt and everyone agreed that they did very well.

MT. CARMEL, Ituni In spite of fears that "harvest gifts" would be poor because of the loss of crops, there was a fairly good amount of rice and vegetables given. The church was filled to overflowing. Under the direction of Mrs. W. A. Blair, one of the finest concerts was given in the afternoon. The music was well chosen, and each selection carried a message to the appreciative audience.

ST. CLEMENT & ST. MARK The splendid services of Lay-Reader George Clarke are beginning to bear good fruit in these congregations. St. Clement has not had so rich a harvest in many years, in material gifts and in precious souls! Five persons were confirmed. The choir presented a pageant, "Blessings and Responsibility," and in addition gave a very fine concert.

St. Mark, also presented a pageant and concert of their own. It was a credit to those who took part. Our special guest for the occasion was Miss Marianne Fague, who gave a wonderful message.

The ladies of both congregations entertained guests from other congregations.

We regret to report the passing of one of the Christian stalwarts of this area. Lay-reader Joseph Ebenezer Daphness. He was born on May 11, 1880, and died November 15, 1954.

Mr. Daphness will be remembered as one of the most loyal and faithful members of the Church in British Guiana. He became a councilman in 1922, and used his talents freely and sacrificially in the Lord's work. In 1941 he was consecrated a layreader of the church and served with distinction until three years ago when, because of failing health, he was retired. He was respected by both young and old in the community. People from all walks of life went to him for counsel and advice. He is survived by his faithful and devoted wife Ellen and two sons.

On December 9, a service was held at St. Clement Church in memory of Councilman Daniel Elias and Layreader Daphness. The large and reverent congregation was eloquent testimony of the high esteem in which these servants of Christ were held

by the community. Pastor Magalee read the liturgy, and Dr. G. G. Parker preached a fitting and inspiring sermon. Wreaths were laid by the widows of the departed—Mrs. Jane Elias and Mrs. Ellen Daphness. Obituaries were presented by Mr. E. Daphness and Mr. G. Clarke, councilmen of St. Mark and St. Clement congregations. Mrs. H. C. Magalee presided at the organ.

ST. CATHERINE, Fearn Amid downpours of rain the Festival of Harvest was celebrated and there was an usually large attendance. The choir from St. Clement Church gave their pageant and concert, and the ladies of St. Catherine entertained the guests. Councilman Alfred Kesney extended a hearty welcome to everyone.

SKELDON PARISH.

DR. G. G. PARKER, Acting

NATIVITY, Crabwood Creek A Yeshu Khata was held at Nativity Lutheran Church, Crabwood Creek, on October 3-4, 1954. This Khata is the first of its kind in this area. We pray that the seeds sown will grow and bear fruit abundantly. Suitable Bhajans were rendered. As a result of this Khata, one soul was won to the Lord by adult Baptism. Catechist Joseph N. Ramlochan conducted the Khata.

Members and friends were happy to welcome Pastor Leland Ingalls, who was visiting the Corentyne Parish.

Lady Missionaries, Miss M. Fague and Miss R. Zartman, in company with Dr. & Mrs. G. G. Parker, paid an official visit to Nativity Kindergarten School. They were garlanded and welcomed by the pupils and teachers.

Crabwood Creek Christian Burial Ground was consecrated by Dr. G. Gordon Parker, in the presence of a fairly large gathering.

SKELDON HIGH SCHOOL

Principal Mr. ROBERT BEHARRY

EXAMS The School obtained the highest percentage of passes in Berbice, in the 1954 GCE of the University of London Exams. Nine students obtained passes in the Ordinary Level and two with part certificates, and one at the advanced level. To those students we offer congratulations.

Enrolment 40 new children have joined the classes and we secured the services of

Harry Jainarine, (Inter B.A.) from Central, and Mr. J. M. Rhagnauth, from Queens, to help in the work by the Staff.

UN Day celebrations have been the biggest in years. The UN Club planned a week of celebrations lasting from October 8 to 25, with special talks, lectures, skits, a birthday party, flag raising ceremonies, and mock UN General Assembly in session. We now have 80 members in our UN Club. It is the only recognised Educational Centre in this colony.

Volley Ball The Upper Corentyne Volley Ball Association has been revived, and the two leading teams playing for the Robertson Cup and the Skeldon High School Cup, are the Aces and the Skeldon High School teams. Eight Clubs are battling for supremacy in these competitions.

Reformation Week was again celebrated with educational talks and a special survey of the work of the Lutheran Church in different lands.

Library Books are again urgently needed for our School Library which serves a large population of not only High School children, but members of the reading public also.

CANJE AND LOWER BERBICE PARISH

DR. G. G. PARKER

As we approach the end of year, the reports of harvest from the fields of our colony and from the Congregations of our Church, show that God has abundantly blessed us. The Treasurer of the Church rejoices with all of our Congregations which have had successful harvests. Two congregations Transfiguration and Calvary, have sent in their Self-Support for the year 1954. Ebenezer, and Epiphany, have made substantial payments on the same account. We hope that in the next issue of the Southern Cross that we will be able to print an honor-roll of all congregations which have paid their apportionment in full by December 31. We urge all congregations to make their remittances as early as possible so that they can be included in this honorroll. The books of the Church will be kept open for payments on this account until December 31. We know that every congregation will do its best to have its apportionment paid in full on time.

We appreciate that the Christmas season will bring many offerings and will enable some congregations to pay over and above their regular apportionment. We suggest that you pay to the Treasurer of the Church as much as is possible before the Christmas Season, and then make additional payments at the close of the year or early in January.

ST. THOMAS, Lochaber celebrated its Harvest Festival on November 7. There was a Confirmation and Communion Service at the morning worship, the Harvest Festival in the evening, and the Harvest Festival Pageant on Monday evening, November 8. This congregation is to be congratulated in having a full attendance at all three services. There were ten and one-half bags of paddy in addition to other produce, contributed by members of the community. The total offerings, including the sale of the paddy, amounted to over \$132.00.

TRANSFIGURATION Betsy Ground Transfiguration Congregation, Betsy Ground, held its Harvest, Sunday Morning November 21. This congregation has been hampered in its activities by the fact that its catechist is a full-time student in the Lutheran Training Institute in New Amsterdam. In spite of this handicap, the Church was beautifully decorated, and when the hour for worship came, completely filled with worshippers. The offering for this congregation amounted to \$107.00, and enables them easily to pay their apportionment for the current year.

NEW AMSTERDAM PARISH

PASTOR WALLACE J. WOLFF

EBENEZER, New Amsterdam On Sunday, November 14, Ebenezer Lutheran Church observed its Annual Harvest Festival. This was for the New Amsterdam Parish a red-letter day. More than a thousand persons attended the services of that day. The offering, received in kind and cash on that day, set a new record. The total offering was more than four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450.00).

Thanks and credit must be given to the vestry and faithful members of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, and all others who assisted. We want to thank especially Miss Olive Steaman, members of the Talitha Cumi for cleaning the church, members of the Luther League for decorating the church, and the Girls' Choir for rendering special music.

On that day, fourteen persons were confirmed and nine persons were baptized. At the evening service the picture "Land of Many Waters," was shown.

WEST COAST BERBICE PARISH PASTOR LELAND INGALLS

AUGSBURG, Burma Sunday School
The Sunday School at Burma continues to progress. Many of the children are Lutherans and have been taught to lead the Sunday School in the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed and Psalm 23.

Church Services are held every Sunday. Unlike the Sunday School, a small percentage is Lutheran. Some, however, are showing tangible evidence of attachment to the Lutheran Church.

A voluntary offering scheme of regular monthly contributions is being introduced.

Luther League The Junior Luther League continues to function satisfactorily.

ABARY At the South-eastern tip of Burma, along the Abary River, is Third Point, a little settlement of about six families. A recent survey disclosed that seventy five percent (75%) are Lutherans by reason of Baptism and marriage. They are anxious for a preaching point to be established, and have put a padi bond at our disposal.

BEL AIR PARISH Pastor E. Gene Vosseler

ST. ANDREWS, Le Ressouvenir The milkmen in Souvenir are suffering serious economic hardship. The milk supply has dwindled almost to nothing. Seven members of the congregation are employed in this occupation.

Although Souvenir has been without a Catechist for the past year, chances are very good that a Catechist will be assigned sometime in January. The Lutheran Church in British Guiana is at present negotiating for a house. Special services will be observed on Christmas and New Year.

ST. MARY'S, Belair This congregation led the way in harvest offerings for Belair Parish. Over \$91.00 was received in free-will offerings. Like the other two churches in the Parish, St. Mary's abolished their auction-sale.

On Boxing day, December 26, the congregation will welcome ten children by confirmation and five adults by Holy Baptism. Special services will be held on Christmas and New Years eve.

As an educational feature, film strips on Luther's Small Catechism are shown weekly to the congregation.

Sunday School, under the leadership of Catechist-student Kyte Ramessar, is experiencing a healthy growth. Teachers and prospective teachers of Sunday School in the Belair Parish are receiving instruction. The Leadership Education Audio-Visual Kit is being used in this class.

Luther League under the leadership of Roland Munro, is planning a Christmas Social. The school will be decorated and a special offering for Luther-League objective will be received. Games and refreshments will finish the evenings activity.

REDEEMER Campbellville Members are watching with eager anticipation as the Campbellville building projects begin to move. A six unit school of hollow block construction is being built. The building of a Church and parsonage should begin early in 1955.

In the absence of a catechist, the members are responding valiantly in assuming work and positions of responsibility in the church. The congregation will hold special services for Christmas and New Year.

Luther League, under the leadership of Maurice Edgehill, is planning a Christmas Social. Christmas caroling, games, exchange of gifts, the reading of the Christmas story and refreshments will comprise the evenings activity. A special offering will be received for Luther League objective.

GEORGETOWN PARISH

PASTOR P.G. HANSEN

MT. ZION Sand-Hills On November the 21st, Mt Zion Lutheran Church of Sand-Hills, Demerara River, observed its Annual Harvest Thanksgiving. Worshipers came as far as seven miles. The Church was beautifully decorated with the fruits of the harvest. The pastor delivered the harvest message.

The concert was a real success. Lance Corporal Barrows, prize-winner in the 1952 and 1954 B.G. Music Festival, was guest soloist. His renditions were well

received. Mr. and Mrs. R.O. King, trained the children of the school, who performed exceptionally well. Mr. and Mrs. King are to be commended for their excellent work.

The total offering for the day was \$120.00.

CALVARY Georgetown The Stewardship and Evangelism Committee set the 1955 Budget at \$1750, this represents an increase of \$550. over the 1954 Budget. Many members feel that the goal will be reached if not exceeded.

Attendance at church services continues to increase as approximately 100 worship at Calvary each Sunday.

Calvary Luther League practiced Christmas Carols for nearly four weeks learning the four parts, and then went caroling to many homes of the Church and League.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

STEWARDSHIP QUESTIONS

1. Have I understood fully what God has done for me in giving me His Son, Jesus Christ to die for me, so that I might inherit eternal life?
2. Am I using my talents for the up building of the Kingdom?
3. Had I given enough of my time to active work in my Church?
Do I live my faith by serving Christ wherever I am?
4. Do I gave a fair proportion of my income, as God has prospered me?

CHRISTIAN TITHING

Christian tithing begins with Christ. Its whole emphasis upon him. The central

fact in the life of the Christian is the coming of Jesus into the world to give Him self upon the cross for man. Through Him man comes to God; through Him man finds forgiveness and reconciliation. Here is giving and love that is beyond human understanding. It is grace, God's love given freely without our having deserved or merited any part of it.

And right there is where Christian tithing begins, in man's - understanding of that central fact of Christian faith, and in his response to it. For, he asks himself, if God has been so good to me, how can I help but show my thanks to Him in every act of my life? And in my giving, how can I do less for His work than set aside at least one-tenth of my income, - as a first step? Christians tithing begins with Christ.

That makes a difference, you see. The tithe is given, not to win God's favor, nor because I expect Him to return three-tenth next week, nor for any of the other foolish, un-Christian reasons that one hears about occasionally. Like Zacchaeus, I have looked into the face of Jesus, and I can no longer say my thanks with trifles. The first of my possessions must go to Him now. At least one-tenth now! Certainly more as soon as I can. For Him. For His love.

The simplest definition, therefore of Christian tithing is that it is a Christian man tithing. This is not just a play on words. For the point that such a definition emphasizes is that it is not tithing what makes a person a Christian. He is a Christian first, through faith in Jesus Christ and then a tither. Let no one believe that tithing and the tithe are tests of one's Christianity. They are but the evidence of one's faith.

Dr. Clarence Stoughton.

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